

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Philippines: Typhoon Conson

Information bulletin n° 1
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14 July 2010

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is currently not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

Typhoon Conson (locally named Basyang) was seen via satellite 660 km east-northeast of Virac, Catanduanes on July 12, 2010 at 4:00 a.m. It intensified and was upgraded to a Tropical Storm at 11:00 p.m. the same day, moving towards the Isabela-Aurora area.

The Situation

Typhoon Conson (locally known as Basyang) is the second typhoon for the Philippines of a series of some 22 more expected for this year. Conson made landfall early Tuesday night (13 July) as storm warning number 3 was raised in the Aurora province in Northern Quezon, including Polilio Island and Camarines Norte.

Public Storm Signal Number 1 was raised in Batangas, Cavite and included Lubang Island, Bataan, Pampanga, Zambales, Tarlac, Pangasinan, Albay, Marinduque, La Union, Benguet, Mt. Province, Ilocos Sur, Kalinga, Apayao, Abra, Cagayan, and Metro Manila.

Public Storm Signal Number 2 was raised in Camarines Sur, Southern Quezon, Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Ifugao and Isabela. Meanwhile, Public Storm Signal Number 3 was raised in Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Northern Quezon, Polilio Island, and Aurora.

Strong 80-120 km per hour winds lashed through Metro Manila around 11:00 p.m. for four to six hours, causing damage to houses, electrical and telecommunication lines and Internet facilities. Some of the mobile lines are still down while the restoration of Internet in Manila and other parts of the affected areas remains an issue. The blackout that struck Metro Manila at midnight remains as of 3.00 p.m. today (14 July). Similarly, other parts of the affected areas are experiencing blackouts as well.

The heavy rain that poured over Metro Manila yesterday (13 July) morning led the Department of Education to suspend classes yesterday morning in the pre-school and elementary levels in the capital. Also today, classes were suspended in Metro Manila and in other parts of the country as deemed fit by the local authorities.

Visibility was reduced to 1.5 km from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. yesterday around the arrival time of many domestic flights. Many of these were diverted to other airports out of the path of the typhoon. Approximately 60 flights-- both international and domestic - were either cancelled or have been diverted to other airports since yesterday. As of this morning, flights have resumed at the airports in Manila.

Similarly people were stranded at several ports due to an advisory to ships not to sail due to strong winds. Although there were not high floods, flash floods did disrupt traffic in Manila and other parts of the affected areas. Commuters spent four to six hours on the road as opposed to their usual two to three hour commute.

The heavy rainfall that accompanied Conson caused flash floods in Manila and other affected areas. In some areas, pre-emptive evacuation was carried out through the respective PRC chapters or by authorities or on by

affected communities themselves. However, these numbers were small. A number of Red Cross chapters also prepared light food and distributed some relief items for evacuees and other affected.

As of 2.45 p.m. the extent of damage caused by Conson is reported as minimal. Various PRC chapters are still in the process of contacting remote areas within their jurisdiction to confirm incidence of damage, injury or loss of life.

The Philippine Red Cross prepared its chapters and conducted initial actions as the typhoon hit the country.

Area	Time	Signal	Weather conditions
Ilocos Sur	July 12 0833 hours	1	Cloudy skies. Continuous monitoring conducted
Catanduanes	July 12 1750 hours	3	Municipal coordinator reported 11 fishermen missing from Brgy. Suchan in Bagamanoc. Continuous monitoring was conducted through the Operation Centre and constant coordination with the PRC national headquarters, PDCC, and MDCC.
	July 14 1030 hours.		Weather cloudy with moderate winds. Nineteen people reported missing.
Isabela	July 12 1305 hours	2	Moderate rain accompanied by moderate wind monitored
Camarines Norte	July 12 2100 hours		Heavy rain. Electricity cut-off. One reported casualty due to hyperthermia, 7 families (approximately 35 persons) affected, one evacuation centre available.
Aurora	July 12 1800 hours	3	Light rain and wind.
	July 14 1230 hours		Power lines restored and all roads passable.
Pangasinan	July 12 1800 hours		Scattered rain showers in some parts of the province.
Nueva Vizcaya	July 12 1850 hours		Downpour of rain and moderate wind.
Nueva Ecija	July 12 1730 hours		Light to moderate rain
Laguna	July 12 0500 hours		Three evacuation centers available in the municipality of Paete. Municipalities of Calamba, Calauan, and Nagcarlan reported to have knee-deep flood waters while municipalities of Los Baños, Lumban, and Victoria reported ankle-deep flood waters
	July 14 1230 hours		Three cities, 26 municipalities, 96 barangays and 2,999 families affected. Up to 2,193 houses partially damaged while 697 totally damaged. One person reported dead during the typhoon. Three evacuation centres available accommodating 85 persons. Province-wide power interruption not yet restored. Towns of Binan, Bay, Calauan and Nagcarlan reported to experience flash floods.
Las Piñas	July 12 2100 hours		Three barangays were unable to establish communication. Zapote River water level rising but no untoward incidents.
Camarines Sur	July 12 2000 hours		Elementary level classes suspended. Moderate winds and heavy rain. Some areas flooded but only ankle-deep and easily subsiding.
	July 14 1135 hours		Four people reported missing caused by sea incident
Cavite	July 14 0600 hours		Five evacuation centres available in five municipalities—LTO compound catering to 28 families; Porta Vaga, 95 families, Dalahican, 82 families; Sta. Cruz, 29 families; and Pulo, 23 families.
Manila	July 14 0928 hours		Two barangays affected where 160 families or 850 people live. Partially damaged houses up to 120. Two available evacuation centres catering to these affected families.
Batangas	July 14 0830 hours		Five municipalities totally affected including Talisay, Laurel, Nasugbu, Balayan, and Lemery. Three people reported dead and five reported missing. Thirteen houses damaged due to flashfloods and diversion of road not accessible to users.
Bulacan	July 14 0942 hours		Thirty-one families with 141 members were affected due to high

			tide and are staying in the evacuation centre.
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Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Following the advisory from Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) on the arrival of Conson, the PRC Operations Centre sent out advisories to all chapters in the country with specific alerts to those on the envisaged track.

Chapters mobilized their staff and volunteers, especially those under the 143 project, to be prepared for any eventuality as well as to monitor the situation. Similarly at the headquarters level, staff and volunteers, mainly the emergency response unit (ERU) team, were on full alert with volunteers trained in search and rescue. Boats with engines were also prepared for mobilization while staff and volunteers continued to monitor the situation and keep in touch with the respective chapters. The leadership from PRC has been in constant touch with the operations centre, keeping a close eye on the situation.

Similarly the Federation country office in Manila, which is presently focused mainly on last year's Typhoon Ketsana (locally known as Ondoy) recovery operation is working closely with PRC on monitoring and preparatory work as well as in helping prepare for a worse case scenario. Vehicles and assessment teams are put on standby should the situation warrant. PRC as well as IFRC in Manila have been prepared to mobilize pre-positioned stock of non-food items for approximately 10,000 families.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

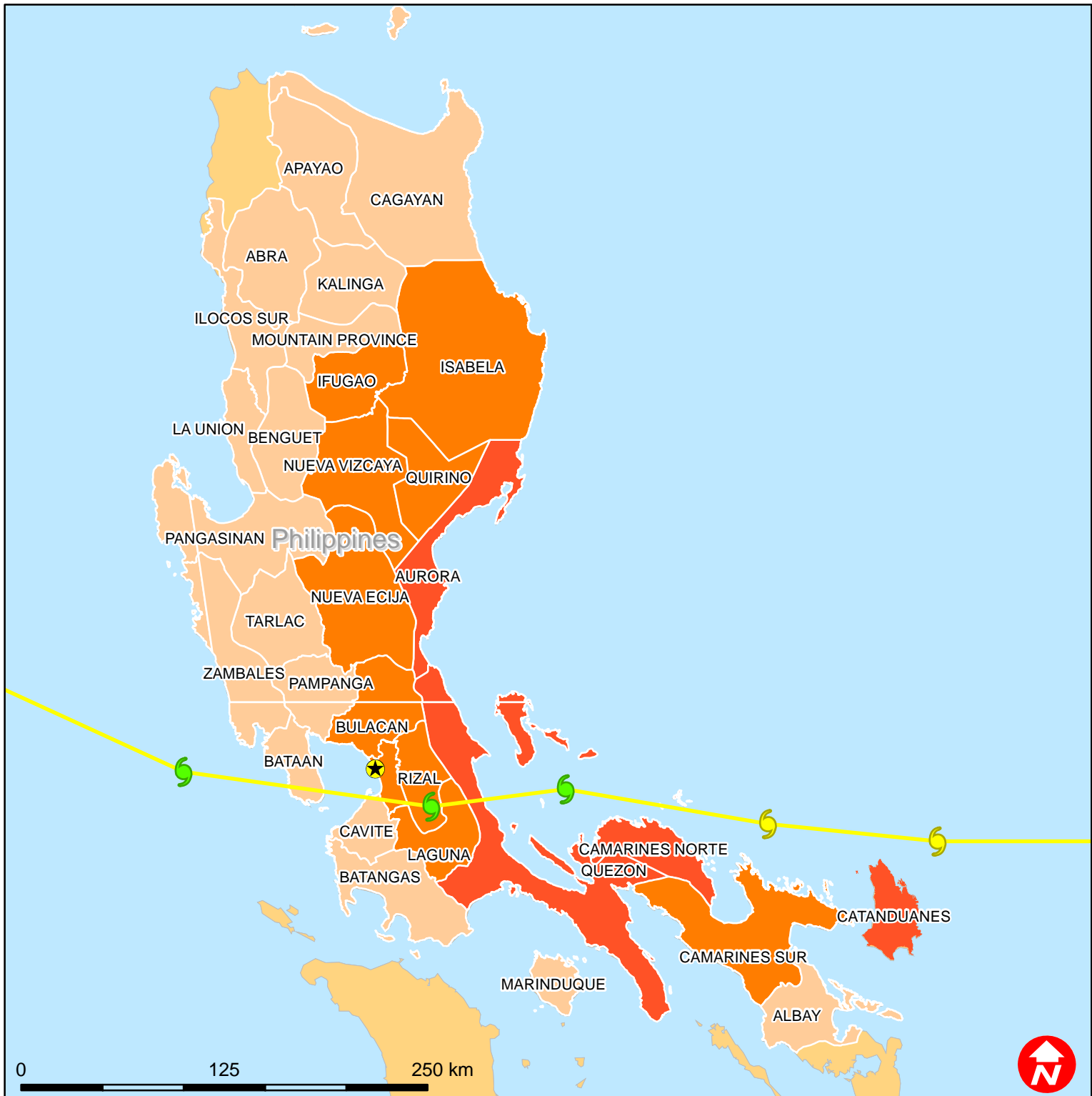
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



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-  TROPICAL DEPRESSION
-  TROPICAL STORM
-  TYPHOON-1
-  Warning number 1
-  Warning number 2
-  Warning number 3